

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 161810
ORIGIN OPIC-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EB-08 AID-05 COME-00 /030 R

DRAFTED BY OPIC/P: CHMIDDLETON

APPROVED BY AF/W:TWMSMITH

OPIC/D/RSSMITH

OPIC/ID/CSCOLE

OPIC/F/PMC CALLUM

OPIC/P/RM ATS

EB/IFD/OIA/DVGRANT

A /W:MCEA N

-----045529 261714Z /72

R 261540Z JUN 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

UNCLAS STATE 161810

FROM OPIC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE OPIC WEST AFRICAN INVESTOR MISSION

REF: DAKAR 2775

1. SUBSEQUENT TO VISITS OF BRIAN TREADWELL, FINANCE OFFICER AND AMBASSADOR ROBERT S. SMITH, VICE PRESIDENT FOR DEVELOPMENT, TO SENEGAL IN APRIL, OPIC ESTABLISHED AN INVESTOR MISSION PROGRAM HEADED BY CARL H. MIDDLETON, FORMER OPIC DIRECTOR OF INSURANCE, MIDDLE EAST/AFRICA. THIS CABLE IS WRITTEN TO UPDATE EMBASSY ON POSSIBLE PLANS FOR WEST AFRICA INVESTOR MISSION.

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2. OPIC IS NOW IN PROCESS OF EXPLORING FEASIBILITY OF FIRST INVESTOR MISSION TO ASEAN COUNTRIES IN NOVEMBER, 1978. SUBSEQUENT MISSIONS ARE TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY/MARCH 1979 TO EAST AFRICA AND FOR MAY 1979 TO WEST AFRICA. DECISIONS RELATING TO THE TIMING AND NATURE OF THE WEST AFRICA MISSION MAY BE INFLUENCED BY WHETHER AND WHEN NIGERIA INDICATES ITS INTEREST IN OPIC'S

PROMOTING INVESTMENT IN NIGERIA THROUGH ITS APPROVAL OF NEW FGA SYSTEM. NIGERIA IS DEEMED TO BE AN IMPORTANT DRAWING CARD AND FOCAL POINT FOR A WEST AFRICA MISSION.

3. SENEGAL IS BEING SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED FOR INCLUSION IN WEST AFRICA MISSION BECAUSE OF ITS FAVORABLE INVESTMENT CLIMATE, STABLE POLITICAL CLIMATE AND THE ENTHUSIASTIC RECEPTION BY GOS AND AMEMBASSY TO OPIC'S PROPOSAL OF SUCH A MISSION. OPIC MANAGEMENT HOPES TO DECIDE IN NEXT FOUR MONTHS WHICH COUNTRIES SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN A WEST AFRICAN MISSION. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY REACTIONS FROM EMBASSY TO NEW SUGGESTED TIMING AND WE WILL KEEP EMBASSY ADVISED OF OPIC THINKING ON THIS. IF ASKED BY GOS, EMBASSY SHOULD SAY THAT MISSION PROPOSAL IS STILL UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION, BUT FOR A DATE LATER THAN FALL OF THIS YEAR. VANCE

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Disposition Event:
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